

DEFTLY HIS GUILT, LEUT. BECKER DIES ON ELECTRIC CHAIR

(Continued from First Page.)

copies were typewritten, which Becker signed with his fountain pen in a bold hand. To Deputy Warden Johnson, who had charge of the execution in place of Warden Thomas Mott Osborne, who does not believe in the death penalty, the one-time police lieutenant gave his fountain pen as a gift. "It is the only thing I have left to give away, and I want you to have it. I want you to give this statement to the newspaper," he said.

Becker's message given out just before he went to his death read:

"Gentlemen: I stand before you in my full senses, knowing that no power on earth can save me from the grave that is to receive me. In the face of that, in the teeth of those who condemned me, and in the presence of my God and your God, I proclaim my absolute innocence of the foul crime for which I must die. You are now about to witness my destruction by the state which is organized to protect the lives of the innocent. May Almighty God pardon every one who has contributed in any degree to my untimely death. And now on the brink of my grave I declare to the world that I am innocent of the crime for which I am to die. The noblest woman that ever lived—Helen Becker. This acknowledgment is the only legacy I leave her. I bid you adieu. Good-bye. Father, I am ready to go. Amen."

"CHARLES BECKER."
Pins Wife's Photo on Shirt.

After his wife had said farewell shortly after midnight, Becker maintained a casual conversation with Deputy Warden Johnson, who sat beside the screen in front of his cell. Sometimes he smoked cigars, after which he would let his head fall upon his hand and gaze reflectively at the concrete floor for minutes at a time. Dawn found him seated on the edge of his cot carefully pinning a photograph of his wife on his white shirt just over his heart. Then, as if he desired to have her all to himself, Becker put on a thin black alpaca coat, which he tightly buttoned. The photograph was not seen by the witnesses until the prison physician opened his coat as he sat in the death chair.

Becker was put to death by the state executioner, whose name is unknown to the public. This man succeeded Stephen Davis, and he said he would not take the job unless his name was kept secret. He lives in a little room upstate, and went about his work briskly.

Becker's executioner said that in his opinion the man had died instantly at the first contact.

An autopsy on the body of Becker was performed, according to law, immediately after the execution. After Becker's body had been removed from the electric chair, Samuel J. Johnson, negro murderer, was brought into the execution room and electrocuted.

One of Becker's last requests was that his body be put to rest in the cemetery of the negro Haynes.

Mrs. Becker's Statement.

A statement credited to Mrs. Becker was given out here shortly after her husband's death.

"I shall never rest," she is quoted as saying, "until I have exposed the methods which were used to convict my husband. Whether he was guilty or innocent there was no justification for the means employed to convict him. I would rather lose all the other members of my family, as dear as they are to me, than lose Charlie. No one can take his place. In all of the ten years of our married life I never had occasion to regret that I was his wife."

"Charlie was no angel. He made no pretense of being one. He was just an ordinary human being—and perhaps that is why I loved him so."

Mrs. Becker said farewell to her husband at 12:30 a.m. She did not leave the prison, however, until 1:15 a.m. John Becker, the condemned man's brother, and John Lynch, Mrs. Becker's brother, accompanied her. She showed no effects of the mental strain to which she had been subjected.

Attacks the Governor.

Becker, it is said, had not expected clemency. Alarmed at the moment the news was received, the prisoner gave out a letter that he had written to Governor Whitman, in which he attacked the executive for having, as he indicated, given to the newspapers statements which were "a foul aspersion on my character," and for which he demanded a retraction.

In this letter Becker again reiterated his innocence of the crime for which he had been convicted.

"To these charges and to all others, I answer," the letter read, "by repeating solemnly, on the brink of the world to which you are sending me before my time, that I was my constant answer while in the world: I am innocent as you of having murdered Herman Rosenthal, or of having conspired against several persons (whose names are undisclosed) of having shared with me in collecting money from law-breakers; that he had sent counsel to two men arrested for complicity in the Rosenthal murder and 'with a cruelty almost inconceivable, it is stated that my first wife died under circumstances warranting suspicion that I had caused her death.'"

Becker explained the death of his first wife by declaring that she had died of "hasty consumption" and that no breath of suspicion had ever been raised against him in that connection.

"Mark well, sir, these words of mine," the letter concluded, "when your power passes, then the truth of Rosenthal's murder will become known. But not while your nominal remain district attorneys and can hold the club over these persons."

"With the aid of judges who were misled into misconceiving the testimony offered in my trial and into mistaking it both to the jury and on appeal, you have proved yourself able to destroy my life. But, believe me, I will surrender if without ransom. Not all the judges in this state, nor in this country, nor the governor of this state, nor the district attorney, nor all of them combined, can destroy permanently the character of an innocent man."

Three Years After Arrest.

Becker went to his death three years and a day after his indictment and arrest and slightly more than fifteen months after the execution of the four gunmen convicted of the actual murder of Rosenthal.

Becker is the first man who left the death house when granted a new trial return the death sentence and suffer the death penalty. All others who have left Sing Sing's death house after being granted a new trial have failed to return there for some reason or other.

Dr. W. O. Stillman of Auburn, who assisted in the autopsy, said that Becker showed unusual resistance to the electric fluid. After the autopsy Dr. Stillman said:

"I noticed no unusual effects upon Becker's vital organs. The way he resisted the strong current was remarkable, showing him to be an unusually powerful man."

Mrs. Becker Reaches Home.

NEW YORK, July 30.—Returning from her last visit to the death house at Sing Sing prison, where she had taken her farewell of her husband, Mrs. Charles Becker arrived at the Becker home in the Bronx at 2:40 a.m. today. She was accompanied by one of Becker's brothers, who had carried her into the house. Mrs. Becker showed

evidences of the deep distress she was undergoing. No effort was made to question her about her visit to Sing Sing. She was met by her sister, Miss Mary Lynch.

Mrs. Becker, according to her brother, John Lynch, was bearing up well today. She is resting today and is not expected to see any one except members of her family.

Funeral Monday.

An undertaker was despatched today to Osnating to get the body of Charles Becker. The funeral, it was announced, will take place Monday.

A solemn high requiem mass will be said at the Church of St. Nicholas of Tolentine by the Rev. Nicholas J. Murray. Interment will be at Woodlawn cemetery.

Mrs. Becker's Last Plea to Gov. Whitman Futile; Urged Husband's Innocence

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., July 30.—In a dimly lighted room of the Nelson House here last night, Mrs. Charles Becker, whose husband was electrocuted at Sing Sing today for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, pleaded futilely with Gov. Whitman to commute her husband's sentence to life imprisonment.

Weeping slightly, but maintaining such control that the governor later remarked admiringly on her composure, she based her appeal solely on her belief in her husband's innocence. There was no offer either by her or John B. Johnston, one of Becker's attorneys, who accompanied her, to expose anything in exchange for the convicted man's life.

"I know Charlie is no saint," but he is not the foul murderer that he has been branded," she said. "I am not a saint, but I am a mother. I am ready to go, Amen."

"I cannot," he said, "but want you to feel free to tell me everything. If there is anything that you know would help your husband, or that I should know, you may tell it to me now with the fullest assurance that it will be regarded as absolutely confidential."

"There is nothing to tell," Mrs. Becker replied. "I only know he is innocent."

Lawyer Pleaded an Hour.

Prior to seeing Mrs. Becker the governor conferred for more than an hour with Mr. Johnston. The attorney appealed for a reprieve in order that the case might be taken to the court of appeals, and also asked the governor to permit former Justices Edgar M. Cullen and Charles Andrews to pass on the appeal for a commutation or reprieve as specially appointed commissioners.

The executive declined both requests. When asked to grant a reprieve that new evidence might be submitted, the governor said there was none.

When the governor had completed his conference with Mr. Johnston the doors of the room were opened and the governor walked over to Mrs. Becker. She rose immediately and began to talk to him.

As between Mrs. Becker and the governor, she appeared to have her nerves under better control than he. He stood wearily clasping his hands together when he saw several newspaper men soon after he had her.

"I suppose," he said, very slowly, "that you want to ask me if I have seen Mrs. Becker. I have, and have told her that I cannot intervene."

At the governor finished his final plea of Mrs. Becker for her husband's life. The governor had no comment to make on any phase of the Becker case. The letter which the former police lieutenant wrote the executive just before going to the death chair had not been received at noon today.

BECKER'S CASE.

July 11, 1912.—Herman Rosenthal, New York gambler, publicly accuses

entered a waiting motor car to go to Sing Sing for a last farewell with her husband. Within ten minutes the governor was on his way to Albany.

Denies Press Agent's Statement.

The governor denied vigorously that he ever told Charles B. Platt, Becker's so-called press agent, that he intended to pardon Becker if he became governor.

"The statement," he said, "is too absurd to consider."

Mr. Johnston declared in the presence of the governor that he never knew of Becker offering to plead guilty to second degree murder.

The governor said positively that any report attributed to him to the effect that he had made such an offer was unwarranted, but he added that he would not deny the truth of such a statement.

Press Agent Platt's Tale.

NEW YORK, July 30.—Gov. Whitman's denial of the story told by Charles B. Platt referred to a statement made here yesterday by Platt often described as Becker's former press agent.

Platt in his statement said: "Gov. Whitman while district attorney of New York county summoned me to his office a short time before the second Becker trial, and in the presence of others, whose names I cannot make public, Mr. Whitman said to me: 'I want you to help convict Becker in his coming trial. Your appearance on the stand as his former press agent will make a big difference in the outcome.'"

"I am not sure of Mr. Whitman's exact words, but he said in effect: 'Just as soon as I am elected governor I will see that he is pardoned.' Three weeks ago I went to Albany and reminded the governor of what he had said to me on that occasion. He replied that he did not recollect the conversation."

Gov. Whitman's Rejoinder.

ALBANY, N. Y., July 30.—Charles Becker never made a direct offer to plead guilty to murder in the second degree and never offered directly to implicate others in graft exposures, Mr. Whitman declared upon his return from Poughkeepsie.

"Becker is right in saying he never made such an offer, for I have not spoken to him since the night Rosenthal was murdered," the governor said. "He well can say that for he personally never made any proposition to me. It is a well known fact that his counsel offered to implicate others in graft disclosures and named five persons. It was only a short time ago that Becker's counsel in New York city said that 'as soon as I am elected governor I will see that he is pardoned.'"

The governor refused to discuss the assertion that Becker had offered to plead guilty to second degree murder other than to say that Becker himself had never made such an offer. As for Becker's denial that he had ever sent counsel to men arrested for complicity in the Rosenthal murder and the allegation that his first wife had died under mysterious circumstances, the governor would only say that "these charges have been published in newspapers for three years."

After answering questions concerning the Becker letter the governor exclaimed: "I don't wish to say more about a man condemned to die. This man is guilty. There isn't the slightest doubt about it. It was the most perfectly proven case in the annals of criminal history."

Governor at His Office.

Still showing the effects of the strain under which he has been during the last week, Gov. Whitman arrived at the executive chamber about 11 o'clock this morning. He did not retire until about 2 o'clock after returning from Poughkeepsie, where he heard the final plea of Mrs. Becker for her husband's life. The governor had no comment to make on any phase of the Becker case. The letter which the former police lieutenant wrote the executive just before going to the death chair had not been received at noon today.

BECKER'S CASE.

July 11, 1912.—Herman Rosenthal, New York gambler, publicly accuses

Lieut. Charles Becker, leader of the "strong arm squad" of gambling raiders, of accepting graft.

July 12.—Rosenthal's affidavit against Becker published.

July 15.—Rosenthal promises to tell his story to District Attorney Whitman and the grand jury the next day.

July 16.—Rosenthal murdered at 1:51 a.m. in front of the Metropole, 432 street just off Broadway, New York. Whitman hurries to the scene and thwarts police efforts to cover up the trail.

July 17.—Shapiro and Libby, owners of "gray murder car," when arrested, say Jack Rose hired the car.

July 18.—Rose surrenders and is held for murder.

July 21.—Bridge Webster arrested and is held for murder.

July 22.—Harry Vallon surrenders and is held for murder. Whitman names the four gunmen as actual killers.

July 25.—Dago Frank arrested.

July 29.—Rose, Webster and Vallon turn state's evidence; accuse Lieut. Becker of instigating murder, which they procured. Becker is arrested.

August 1.—"Whitey" Lewis arrested. August 5.—Becker pleads not guilty.

August 10.—Sam Schepps arrested in Springfield, Ark., as witness and returns voluntarily.

August 15.—Jack Rose publishes story of murder. He says he collected \$150,000 in graft for Becker.

September 14.—"Gyp the Blood" and "Lefty" Louie arrested.

October 7.—Becker's trial begins.

October 24.—Becker sentenced to die during week of December 9, 1912; put in Sing Sing death house.

November 19.—Four gunmen convicted of first degree murder.

February 24, 1914.—Becker's conviction set aside; new trial ordered. Gunmen's case affirmed.

April 13.—Dago Frank, "Whitey" Lewis, "Gyp the Blood" and "Lefty" Louie, four gunmen, executed.

May 6.—Becker's second trial called.

May 22.—Becker convicted the second time.

July 25, 1915.—Becker's conviction upheld after appeal.

July 28.—Application for new trial denied.

July 29.—Becker put to death in electric chair.

Mrs. Mary Clarke Drake Dies.

Word has been received here of the death in Chattanooga, Tenn., of Mrs. Mary Clarke Drake, seventy-six years old. Funeral services were held last Monday. Her husband, George M. Drake, two sons, S. E. Drake of Chattanooga and Frank M. Drake of Louisville, Ky., and five daughters, including Miss Myra L. Drake of this city, are living.

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WANTS CONVENTION.

C. M. Thomas Urges Teachers of Colored Schools to Meet Here.

Washington as the convention city for the next meeting of the teachers of colored schools is being urged by Charles M. Thomas of the Miner Normal School, chairman of the executive committee of the Teachers' Association of the District of Columbia (colored), who is attending the national convention at Cincinnati.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court respecting the status of the citizenship of negroes, declares Mr. Thomas, imposed upon their teachers the work of inculcating a deeper patriotism in gratitude "for the great debt and purpose of America."

Dr. George R. Duncan, seventy-five years old, a physician of Washington county, Md., committed suicide at his home at Fall Branch by shooting himself.

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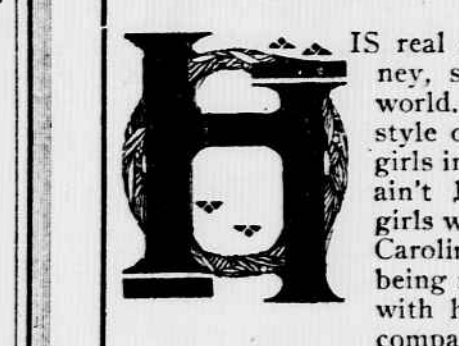
Commencing Monday, August 2, the largest ladies' brass band in America will give free concerts every afternoon and evening, absolutely free. Twenty-five beautiful and handsomely uniformed young ladies from Brooklyn will render popular and up-to-date music. This will last the entire week and will alone be worth much more than the expense of the trip.

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Trains Return at Frequent Intervals.

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They fixed it up for T. Walter Burney all right. They induced the little leading lady to make him fall in love with her. And T. Walter Burney fell.

And here begins the story—the leading story, by Octavus Roy Cohen, in our next Sunday Magazine.

They Went Down With Their Ships

MERE boys, most of them—the lads in the wireless rooms. The great ship strikes suddenly and reels in the darkness; women cry; the deck fills with wildly excited men. And up in the wireless room, all alone, the wireless operator sits, calmly sending out his calls for help.

Hardly any of these wireless heroes are more than mere boys. Yet they have stood steady and gone down with their ships like seasoned veterans. There is a stirring article about them.

Actresses Who Keep House

MOST people have the notion that all actresses spend their lives in the gilded precincts of high-priced hotels. Some of them do, but not all. There are some who hurry home after the matinee, put on an apron and make for the kitchen like the rest of us. In a double-page of new photographs we show some of the best known actresses busy at their housekeeping.

"Beal Pull's a Blinger"

You don't have to be told any more than that to know that it is another Shorty McCabe story, by our long-time friend, Sewell Ford.

"The Girl of the Nutmeg Isle"

A NEW serial of love, mystery and adventure in the South Sea Isles, by Beatrice Grimshaw, whose stories of that region are famous on two continents. Begin this stirring serial now with this week's installment.

Also, Dr. Bowers' answer to the most interesting health question sent him during the week: Mr. Albert Atwood's advice on how to make your savings grow; five short features and many pictures—all in

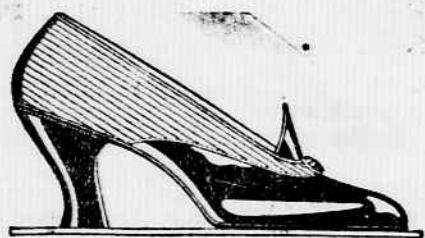
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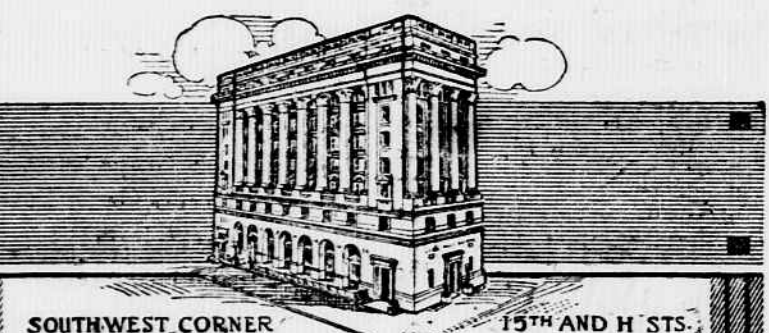
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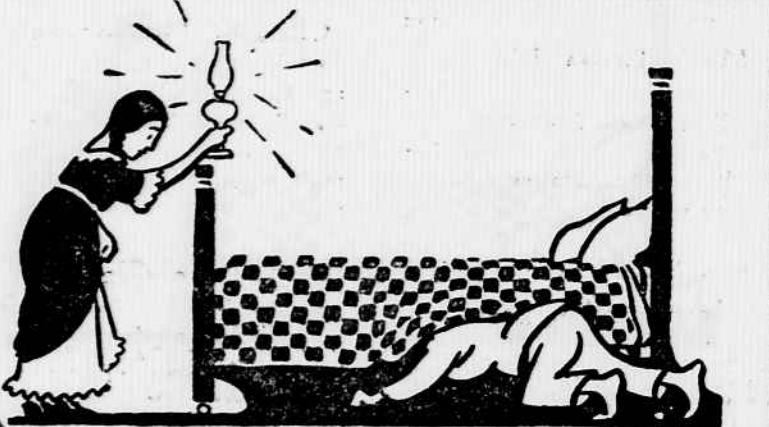
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